Appl. No. 08/886,516
Preliminary Amendment Oct. 10, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for verifying the source of an article of manufacture, the~~said~~ method comprising the steps of:

   a) preparing a label, the~~said~~ label having~~comprising~~ an unreproduceable pattern and information relating to the~~said~~ article;

   b) processing~~describing~~ said_the unreproduceable pattern and including_the ~~said description~~ processed unreproduceable pattern with_the ~~said~~ information relating to_the ~~said~~ article;

   c) encrypting at least a portion of the~~said~~ information relating to the~~said~~ article;

   d) securely associating the~~said~~ article, ~~said~~_the label, and a tangible representation of the~~said~~ encrypted information.

2. (original) A method described in Claim 1 wherein said information included on said label includes verifying information for protecting against unauthorized use of duplicate labels.

3. (original) A method as described in Claim 2 wherein said verifying information includes information consisting of: an expiration date, a unique identification of said article of manufacture, an identification of a provider of said article of manufacture, or information describing said article of manufacture.

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4. (previously canceled)

5.(previously amended)    A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said unreproduceable pattern is formed from magnetic fibers embedded in said label.

6.(previously amended)    A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said encrypted information is encrypted with a first private key of a first public/private key pair and a corresponding first public key is available to parties who wish to validate the source of said article.

7.(original)    A method as described in Claim 6 wherein a trusted third party provides a party producing said label with said first private key and with an encryption of said first public key by a second private key kept secret by said trusted third party, said producing party including said encryption of said first public key with said label and said trusted third party providing a corresponding second public key to parties who wish to verify the source of said article; whereby said parties can recover said first public key from said label so that articles from a large number of different sources can be verified without the need to maintain a corresponding database of public keys.

8.  (previously canceled)

9. (previously canceled)

10. (previously canceled)

11. (previously canceled)

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